

Astrology: Does it Hold Any Truth?

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

FOR CENTURIES UPON centuries, various civilizations have turned to the stars and signs in the sky for guidance in decision-making, fortune predictions, things to be wary of, and other aspects of life. This practice developed as a form of divinity in ancient Babylon nearly 4,000 years ago as a way to derive some sort of meaning between the position of the stars relative to the location and time when a person was born.

Today it more or less has the same meaning and purpose, as people consult horoscopes to determine what decisions they should make or events they should expect for the month. In theory, this sounds like a pretty useful tool to use as guidance for your life. It may be a source of respite as it claims to tell you what to look forward to in the near future; even if it bears a bad omen, at least you know it's coming, right? So why then are there so many people who don't believe it holds any accuracy or authority? Well, as one who holds these opinions about it, I can probably offer some insights.

One of the pitfalls in this ideology is that our model of the motion and structure of the universe - which of course contains all of the heavenly bodies used in astrology - is not compatible with how astrology makes its claims in the first place. One of the main ideas behind it is that it studies the movements of the heavenly bodies around Earth. Does that statement sound a little off? It should, as the only thing that moves around Earth is our moon. The planets of the solar system technically do too, but they orbit the Sun rather than Earth, an important distinction to make.

This is one of the reasons why astrology, which was so widely accepted up until nearly 1700 AD, was given the boot from academia. The heliocentric model, along with other astronomical (as opposed to astrological) discoveries simply showed that astrology had no reason to be taken seriously.

Granted, this might not be the most absolutely convincing argument against astrology. It is a

pseudoscience after all, and since its claims cannot be scientifically proven and are based in ancient superstition, there's no reason why its ideas can't adapt and change to match whatever real science is accepted in current society.

The main reason I don't believe in astrology is because I think the stars and planets simply have no effect on who I am as a person. There is no logical reason why the contrary should be true. I don't see why even the closest star, which is 4.246 light years away (24,960,644,048,140 miles) should possibly have any effect on me whatsoever. And why should it? The stars have no special nature. They're simply floating around in space acting as megasized fusion reactors until they inevitably explode into a supernova or collapse into a blackhole.

I suppose that's another question that must be answered - what happens when the stars eventually die out, and there are no more signs in the sky to shape people's personalities? Will people then be void of all personality, or have the same personality as one another with no external forces to shape them? Will the constellations still be there in a "spiritual" sense? Do the stars then have spirits? Does that mean they are alive, and by extension could the whole universe be alive? I'd guess to say that's likely not the case, thus making all those extra questions unnecessary.

"But Ethan, why don't you just let people believe what they want to believe?" Sure, I'm not saying you can't believe in astrology if you want to. It's a free country and you should have the right to believe in whatever belief system you want, you bet I'll fight for your right to do so. But as for myself, I will let myself make decisions for who I am and how I act, and I will let whatever happens in my life happen, knowing that things happen because that's what happens in a world with things and consequences without need for man-made superstition. The stars have no effect on me. They do not care about me in any way. And quite frankly, I don't care about them either.

Don't Stress About Keeping New Year's Resolutions

BY FAITH FITZHUGH

NEW YEAR'S IS AN EXCITING time for all. Welcome to 2022! We all had our different traditions: the New Year's drinks, parties, games, counting down the clock, and of course our New Year's resolutions. Do you remember as a kid when your elementary class had you fill out what you wanted your New Year's resolutions to be? In case you have no idea what New Year's resolutions are or you need a refresher here it is: New Year's resolutions are about making a wrong right; that with the New Year you want to change something about yourself or achieve something. I remember mine was to be a good sister, to end world hunger, and to have world peace. I think you can guess which one I've done my best to achieve. If you have ever made any resolutions can you say you actually accomplished them? If you can say yes I applaud you, if not then that's the case with all of us. The question is, why do we fail at accomplishing our New Year's resolutions? I have three explanations: we forget, we set unattainable goals, and we don't take them seriously.

The first point is we forget; with the hustle and bustle of our world things come and go in our lives. You may forget the resolutions because you had too much to drink or maybe just have a bad memory. Maybe you just have a poor memory. Or, you didn't make any resolutions which is a possibility as well. Sometimes, you write it down and misplace it.

The second point is our New's Year's resolutions being unattainable. The one I made as a child about world peace was unattainable for a twelve-year-old me to achieve. Maybe you made a resolution that you were not prepared to take on or had any prior steps as to how you were going to accomplish your resolution. Resolutions that are vague or general are bound to fail. Sometimes we pick resolutions that we know we aren't going to put any effort into, or maybe we think we will but we continue our old habits. Maybe you put the limits on yourself and told yourself it was a stupid or unaccomplishable resolution.

The last point is we don't take our New Year's Resolutions seriously. Some people make the same resolution every year such as "I'll start a diet" or "I'll take a break from chocolate" or "I'll go to Italy this year," but they never happen. They don't happen because we just have the resolution to have one for the new year. We pick one that seems easy but then we never do it. Another reason why we don't take them seriously is because we don't hear about other people accomplishing resolutions or even their goals because others around us don't take them seriously so we think "Why should I?"

If you made any New Year's resolutions this year or if you plan on making one after the hype dies down, I implore you to make resolutions you plan to accomplish; no more excuses.

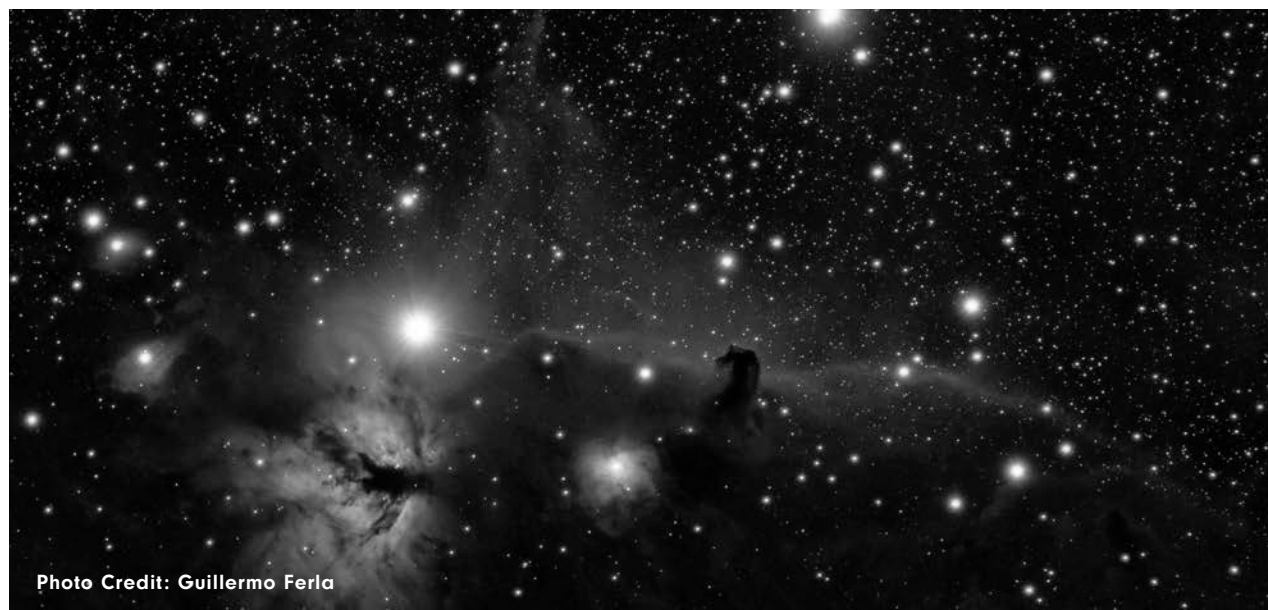


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